

11 April 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Lectures Delivered at Pace University

1. I traveled to Pace University in Pleasantville, NY on 7-8 April 1980 to deliver two lectures. The first was entitled "The Brezhnev Years: A Preliminary Appraisal," and was given to Pace's John H. Buchsbaum Historical Society. It was open to the general public, and approximately 90 people attended. The second was a talk about the CIA and the job of a political analyst delivered to a class of approximately 30 students, who are taking a course entitled "History of U.S. Intelligence."

2. This was the third time that I have been invited to lecture at Pace, where I did my undergraduate work. In 1977, after returning from a summer in the Soviet Union, I gave a talk on my experiences there. The following year I delivered a lecture on the Soviet and American reactions to the Hungarian Revolution and the Suez Crisis of 1956, which will be published in the Journal of Contemporary History next spring.

3. Prior publicity of my visit to Pace and the announcement that Admiral Turner will be the commencement speaker at Pace's graduation this June generated a protest letter from six faculty members that was published in the university newspaper the week before my visit. Despite this, and my public identification as a CIA employee, my reception was friendly--even enthusiastic. There was not the slightest hint of hostility from any of the questioners.

4. In fact, the president of the student body informed me that the professor who instigated the letter has attempted to drum up student support for a walkout during Admiral Turner's commencement address. The effort, however, appears to have met with total failure. The committee of 30 seniors that had voted to send the Admiral the invitation (by a 30-0-0 margin) confronted the protesting professors and complained that they (the students) had the right to choose whomever they desired as commencement speaker. Two of the professors thereupon backed off, saying they did not feel that strongly about the matter. Thus, the controversy seems to have petered out. The six professors will probably continue their past habit at graduation--not attending.

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5. The students in the class on "The History of U.S. Intelligence," displayed a keen understanding of the job we do at CIA and a sympathy for the difficulties we encounter. The course, which is one of the few of its kind in the country, is taught by Dr. John Norman, a former analyst with OSS and INR. Many of the questions concerned the procedures and pitfalls of intelligence analysis. One or two questioners, inevitably, asked me to explain alleged CIA intelligence "failures," specifically Iran and Afghanistan. I replied that on the former there was a failure to foresee the intensity of the Islamic revolution but that there are not many around, including the mullahs, who accurately predicted the course of events. On Afghanistan, I contended that we were right on top of the situation. And while not being able to predict the exact date of the Soviet invasion, we gave US policy-makers ample warning. To a question about which US intelligence agency produced the highest quality intelligence, I responded that, being a totally objective observer, I would have to say CIA. Doctor Norman, despite his loyalty to INR, concurred.

6. Doctor Norman also expressed an interest in bringing other CIA speakers to address his class in the future. I suggested that it may be possible to arrange a trip to the headquarters building for future classes.

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MEMORANDUM FOR: SA/PA

*Herb -*

This gets pretty close to one of your favorite projects. It is a good as well as heartening report. I suggest that a brief note of appreciation from the Boss would be appreciated and appropriate.

STATINTL



Date

*16 Apr 1980*

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